GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3408
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take action on the recommendations made by working group on Petroleum and Natural Gas submitted two years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly recommendation made for incorporation in Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to attain self-sufficiency in oil sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To (d): The Working Group constituted by the Government studied various aspects of the petroleum and natural gas sector in the context of liberalisation of the sector as well as its increasing exposure to international oil market. It made a number of recommendations which include strengthening of oil security through accelerated exploration programmes, acquisition of equity oil abroad, development of alternative sources of fuels, creation of strategic reserves of oil/product and product quality improvement for environmental protection. Accordingly, the following action plans have been approved and action initiated in these areas by the Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan, which will also reduce country's oil import dependence:

(i) Acceleration of exploration efforts especially in deep offshore and frontier areas.

(ii) Launching of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) & Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) programmes.

(iii) Enhancing efforts for securing equity oil and gas abroad.

(iv) Creation of strategic storage facilities for crude oil.

(v) Development of alternative fuels including Coal Bed Methane, Motor Spirit-Ethanol Blend and Gas Hydrates. In addition, the government is also implementing Bio-Diesel programme.

(vi) Implementation of Product Quality Improvement Projects by Oil PSUs for meeting prescribed environmental standards.